2022 Technology Requirements for Graphic Design

Students participating in a Graphic Design (GD) course are required to have access to the internet, a webcam, a microphone and a desktop or laptop and the appropriate software. A Chromebook or tablet should not be considered as a substitution for a desktop or laptop. (A tablet that can run Windows 10 software and performs like a laptop is an exception.)

MINIMUM COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS:
These specifications are minimums for students taking a graphic design course as an elective or for enrichment purposes. These specifications do not apply to those who are enrolled in GD 110, GD 260 or GD 270, and are not recommended benchmarks for students enrolled in a Graphic Design program.

Windows
- Windows® 10 (64 bit) or higher
- Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support or AMD Athlon 64® processor that supports SSE 4.2 or later
- 8 GB of RAM or more
- 8 GB free hard drive space or more
- GPU with DirectX 12 support and supports OpenGL version 4.0 or greater
- Internet connection access

Mac
- Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support with SSE 4.2 or later (Intel® Core™ i5, i7 or i9) or Apple M1 Chip or higher
- macOS® 10.15 (Catalina®) or higher
- 8 GB of RAM or more
- 8 GB free hard drive space or more
- GPU with Metal support
- Internet connection access

Technology Recommendations for GD 260, GD 270 and Multi-Media Design Skillset Program (MMSSD)

Students enrolled in GD 260, 270 or the MMSSD program will work with software that requires rendering. For students enrolled in GD 260 or 270 as an elective or for enrichment, it is not required that you own a computer able to run the software. For students enrolled in the MMSSD program, it is recommended that you have access to a Windows-based gaming computer. Students seeking a 4-year degree in multi-media should check with their prospective transfer degree program for any specific computer recommendations or requirements.
Technology Recommendations for Graphic Design Degree Programs (AASGD, CERGD)

It is required that all students enrolled in the Associate in Applied Arts and Science Degree for Graphic Design (AASGD) or Graphic Design Certificate program (CERGD) have a computer capable of supporting Adobe software. Access to the internet, a webcam and a microphone is also required. A 16-inch MacBook Pro® capable of running macOS Catalina (or higher) is recommended. With some exception, Windows-based PC computers are not preferred.*

* Mac computers are industry standard in graphic design. For those interested in careers or transfer programs in multi-media (gaming, 3d modeling, coding), a Windows-based computer is industry-standard and in these instances a gaming PC is recommended. Check your prospective transfer degree program for any specific computer recommendations or requirements.

PREFERRED COMPUTER FOR AASGD AND CERGD:

16-inch MacBook Pro**
- Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support (Intel® Core™ i5, i7 or i9) or Apple M1 Chip
- macOS® 10.15 (Catalina®) or higher
- 16 GB RAM or higher (RAM in Apple computers cannot be upgraded after purchase)
- 500 GB or more SSD storage

** A 13" MacBook Pro, or MacBook Air® are not recommended substitutions.

Additional Information

MAC COMPUTER LABS
The Fine Arts Building (FAB) maintains 2 Mac labs for SC4 students participating in a Graphic Design (GD) course or for students actively enrolled in the AASGD, CERGD, or MMSSD programs.

The primary lab is equipped with:

- 27-inch iMac® desktops
- Outlets for laptops
- HP Color LaserJet® 5225 Laser printer
- Epson Stylus Pro® 9900 large-format inkjet printer
- Epson SureColor® P800
- Wacom Cintiq® Drawing Tablets
- Wacom Intuos® Drawing Tablets
- iPad® with Drawing Stylus
- Spray booth
LIBRARY ACCESS
The SC4 Library located in the College Center (CC) reserves 2 Mac computers for SC4 students participating in a GD course or for students actively enrolled in the AASGD, CERGD, or MMSSD programs.

ADOBE® CREATIVE CLOUD® SUITE
The Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (CC) is provided to students currently enrolled in a GD course. Contact your instructor for details during the first week of classes.

OFFICE 365®
Office 365 is provided through the college for registered students. It can be accessed using your Portal login and password.

3D MODELING SOFTWARE
Most 3d software is free for students who can show proof of registration. This includes Autodesk® (AutoCad®, Maya®, 3Ds Max®, Mudbox®), Maxon® (Cinema 4D®, ZBrush®) and Blender®.

CLOUD SERVICE
Office 365 includes OneDrive® which is a dedicated cloud service for saving and backing up files. Adobe CC is also equipped with cloud storage. Cloud storage may expire at the end of a subscription period and should not be used for long-term storage.

COMPUTER ACCESS PROBLEMS
If you are having difficulty meeting your technology needs, please contact your instructor. You may also contact the Student Help Desk at helpdesk@sc4.edu or by calling (810) 989-5858 for troubleshooting.